



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

3358 Davidsonville Road • Davidsonville, MD 21035 • (410) 922-3426

February 23, 2022

To: House Economic Matters Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Support of HB 562 - Consumer Protection - Right to Repair - Farm Equipment**

On behalf of our Farm Bureau member families in Maryland, I submit this written testimony in support of HB 562. This bill requires a farm equipment manufacturer to make available documentation, updates, or information (including the software needed to flash/pair the computer system in the farm equipment) to an independent repair provider or owner of farm equipment to allow for the diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of the farm equipment. It prohibits a farm equipment manufacturer from knowingly misrepresenting or withholding farm equipment part numbers from a customer.

After several years of discussions with farm equipment manufacturers, it has come to a point where final allowance of full right-to-repair needs legislative involvement. Most everything has been offered to a farmer and/or third-party repair shop (diagnostic tools, online parts ordering, equipment repairs) except for the final issue, that ability to flash the software after the computer repair has been made. This last component of full repair is not being allowed by an unauthorized technician. As the next generation of farm equipment is rolled off the assembly line, an even greater amount of the daily use of that piece of equipment is computer run. So the need to repair the computers is essential. Until that component is allowed to be repaired by the farmer and/or the private repair shop, there will not be this type of practice being done as the repair equipment it takes to work on farm equipment is extremely expensive and if a repair shop can't finish a job, why would a farmer use them. This last piece to right to repair is why we are here asking for this legislation to be passed.

MDFB Policy:

We support legislation requiring agricultural equipment manufacturers to make available the necessary documents, software, and information to allow independent shops and individuals to repair equipment.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB409 & REQUESTS A FAVORABLE REPORT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colby Ferguson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396